

**Leadership Council Policy on Target Revision
August 4, 2011 Ecosystem Coordination Board**

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Proposed Action

Board discussion of material being developed to support Leadership Council policy.

Background

See attached draft of Leadership Council policy

Action Agenda Consistency

Strategic Priority E.1.1 of the Action Agenda calls for the establishment of measures and benchmarks for assessing progress in the ecosystem as one of five major components of the Partnership's performance management system. Within this priority, the Action Agenda call for efforts to refine targets and benchmarks to reflect advancements related the ecosystem goals, outcomes, and indicators.

Stakeholder Input

The scope and general approach to Partnership target setting were discussed as part of the science-policy workshop convened on December 14, 2010. All Partnership boards were engaged in January to June 2011 discussions of targets as science-based policy statements.

The attached draft policy was discussed briefly by the Science Panel on July 12, 2011 and will be discussed again at their August 9, 2011 meeting.

Consequences of Delay

Following adoption of a number of targets in June 2011, a clear policy about the process for and timing of Puget Sound Partnership revisions of ecosystem recovery targets is needed to ensure that all stakeholders have common expectations about next steps and opportunities for engagement. Delaying Leadership Council discussion and adoption of a policy for target revision could lead to greater uncertainty about the status of adopted targets and suite of targets that will guide recovery efforts over the next months and years.

Attachment

- Draft Leadership Council Target Revision Policy with draft petition template and graphic

Background:

RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020.” The Partnership has applied the term ecosystem recovery targets to refer to long-term benchmarks.

The Partnership’s Leadership Council has adopted ecosystem recovery targets as policy statements that reflect the region’s commitments to and expectations for recovery, or a measurable path to recovery, by 2020. Targets are based on scientific understandings of the ecosystem. The Partnership’s ecosystem recovery targets are integral to the recovery effort. They will drive Action Agenda strategies and be tracked over time to evaluate progress.

In establishing targets, the Leadership Council recognized a need to evaluate and potentially modify adopted targets over time – to reflect improved scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures and/or improved understandings of the balance between achievability and results-orientation.

In its resolutions adopting targets, the Leadership Council included the following language: “Reevaluation of the target adopted by this resolution will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership’s Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures.”

Any modification of targets should be carefully considered as part of the overall system of Puget Sound ecosystem recovery. Modifications should be undertaken with clear justification. This policy is intended to outline the rationale, triggers, process and respective roles of Partnership boards in considering modifications to adopted targets.

Context and framing of target revision

- Rationale for target review/revision
 - Biophysical – scientific information about ecosystem conditions, pressures, and/or ecosystem relationships, including the ability of management actions to address pressures or affect ecosystem conditions.
 - Socio-economic – information about social and/or economic factors such as the costs of achieving targets and/or inequities in the distribution of costs (or benefits) of achieving targets.
- Timeframe
 - Target reviews/modifications will be considered on a two-year cycle.
 - A defined time period will be established each biennium for accepting petitions.

- Recommendations about topics for modifications to ecosystem recovery targets will be presented in the Science Panel's comments portion of the biennial *State of the Sound* report
- Target options for select topics will be developed, evaluated, and considered by the Leadership Council as an element of biennial Action Agenda revision.

Review and Modification Process

Initiating review: Topics for potential modification of the Partnership's ecosystem recovery targets can be identified in several ways:

- Determination directly by the Science Panel (e.g., based on information presented in the Puget Sound Science Update)
- Request from the Leadership Council
- Petition from another Partnership board and committee: Ecosystem Coordination Board, Salmon Recovery Council, Monitoring Program Steering Committee
- Petition from individuals or groups beyond the Partnership's governance bodies

Review Steps:

1. Petition for target re-evaluation is submitted to Partnership staff (see attached template)
2. Staff review and route petitions, categorizing each petition for initial review by either the Science Panel or the Ecosystem Coordination Board, and possibly developing clusters of individual petitions based on topic.
3. Initial screening of petitions for justification by the Science Panel or Ecosystem Coordination Board (via committee of the whole or subcommittees?)
 - a. Science Panel reviews petitions presenting a biophysical rationale for target revision. Screening considers:
 - i. The quality and content of the scientific information available to support Partnership target setting
 - ii. The relevance of the information to Partnership's Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts
 - b. Ecosystem Coordination Board reviews petitions presenting a socio-economic rationale for target revision. (These petitions are shared with Science Panel as FYI). Screening considers:
 - i. The quality and content of the socio-economic information available to support Partnership target setting
 - ii. The relevance of the information to Partnership's Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts
 - iii. The Board's interpretation of the relative importance of possible improvements to this target topic

4. Science Panel and Ecosystem Coordination Board identify target modification topics for full analysis by the Science Panel.
5. Science Panel conducts analysis and provides scientific rationale and/or analysis of ecosystem implications related to potential modification of respective target(s). If desired the Panel may convene one or more economic analysis study teams to assist with complex or difficult economic issues.
6. Science Panel develops recommendations for target re-evaluation and presents these in the Science Panel comments portion of the biennial *State of the Sound* report.

Modification Steps

7. Leadership Council reviews recommendations presented in the *State of the Sound* and makes a formal request of staff for development and evaluation of target options.
8. Partnership staff convene technical experts and stakeholders to develop and evaluate target options. Unless otherwise decided by the Partnership, this effort would follow the process used in January to June 2011:
 - a. development of technical material to support target-setting
 - b. review of technical material by Science Panel members and revision to technical material to respond to Panel members' comments
 - c. stakeholder discussion and refinement of target options through workshops, public comment, meetings with Puget Sound caucuses, and meetings of the Ecosystem Coordination Board and Salmon Recovery Council
 - d. presentation of target options – including information about stakeholder preference, Science Panel review, and public comments on target-setting topics – to the Leadership Council
9. Leadership Council discusses target options and adopts ecosystem recovery targets.

Board Roles

- Science Panel – 1) can initiate petitions; 2) provides initial reviews of science-based (biophysical) petitions; 3) for all petitions - conducts analysis and provides recommendations to the Leadership Council for target re-evaluation via *State of the Sound*; 4) reviews target setting technical materials
- Ecosystem Coordination Board – 1) can initiate petitions; 2) provides initial review of non-science based (socio-economic) petitions; 3) forwards respective targets to the Science Panel for full analysis; 4) participates in the target-

modification process to provide input to the Leadership Council on new, revised or modified targets.

- Leadership Council – 1) can initiate petitions; 2) reviews target re-evaluation recommendations forwarded by the Science Panel; 3) makes formal target re-evaluation request(s) to Partnership staff; 4) adopts targets
- Salmon Recovery Council – 1) can initiate petitions; 2) participates in the target-modification process to provide input to the Leadership Council on new, revised or modified targets.
- Monitoring Program Steering Committee – 1) reviews indicators on a biennial basis and submits findings to Science Panel; 2) can initiate petitions.

Schedule (repeated in subsequent biennia)

- Request for petitions – February 2012
- Petitions due – April 10, 2012
- Petitions routed to Science Panel or Ecosystem Coordination Board – April 17, 2012
- Initial review of petitions complete – June 1, 2012
- Science Panel recommendations on target modifications discussed at Panel meeting – September 2012
- Science Panel recommendations on target modifications included in Leadership Council briefing on *State of the Sound* content – late September or early October 2012
- Science Panel recommendations on target modifications presented in *State of the Sound* – November 1, 2012
- Timeframe for Leadership Council decision on topics for development and evaluation of target options – TBD (late 2012 or early 2013)
- Development and evaluation of target options (technical and stakeholder aspects) – TBD (complete in spring 2013)
- Leadership Council adoption of ecosystem recovery targets – TBD (late spring 2013)

Attachments:

- Draft petition template
- Graphic depiction of process to initiate target re-evaluation

DRAFT – July 12, 2011

Petition for Science Panel Evaluation of Ecosystem Recovery Targets

Prepared by: _____ (name)
_____ (title)
_____ (affiliation)
_____ (postal address)
_____ (e-mail)
_____ (phone)

Date: _____

Subject: _____
(short version of subject matter of petition – what topic? what issue?)

The Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council adopts ecosystem recovery targets as descriptions of desired future conditions of human health and well-being, species and food webs, habitats, water quantity and water quality. These targets are policy statements that reflect the region's commitments to and expectations for ecosystem recovery, or a path to recovery, by 2020. Targets are based on scientific understandings of the ecosystem.

Any modification of targets will be carefully considered as part of the overall system of targets and initiated with clear justification. The Partnership's Science Panel or Ecosystem Coordination Board reviews petitions for revisions to the Partnership's ecosystem recovery targets that may be recommended as topics for evaluation and possible target modification. (See Partnership's Target Re-evaluation Policy)

Summary of Request

Briefly introduce the topic of this petition and your rationale for suggesting that the Partnership take action on a new or revised ecosystem recovery target. (Limit to about 100 words.)

Background

Part 1: Describe (and provide citations to) the scientific or technical information that you are requesting the Partnership to take into account in its adoption of ecosystem recovery targets. Explain the type of information addressed in your petition (e.g., characterizing ecosystem conditions; identifying and characterizing drivers, pressures, or threats to ecosystem components; evaluating ecosystem responses to management actions; evaluating the economic or technical feasibility of management actions; or other).

Petitioner Last Name

Date

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Part 2: Describe how this information relates to the Partnership's ecosystem recovery targets.

Part 3: If appropriate, describe how this information relates to the Partnership's adoption of ecosystem recovery targets that are (S) specific, (M) measurable, (A) achievable, (R) results-oriented (i.e., related to ambitions for a recovered Puget Sound ecosystem), and (T) time-fixed.

Request

Explain the specific action(s) that you are requesting of the Partnership related to the information that you are providing.

DRAFT

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP PROCESS TO INITIATE TARGET RE-EVALUATION

